

KEYS TOURISM ADVISORY #8

Sat, Aug 25, 2012

9:13 PM

*This advisory is based on information and instructions from Monroe County Emergency Management, the National Hurricane Center and Key West National Weather Service Office
Compiled and transmitted by the Monroe County Tourist Development Council*

Keys Visitor Egress Winding Down; Remain Inside During Storm

STORM NAME

Isaac

CATEGORY / MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS

Tropical Storm / 60 mph

CENTER'S CURRENT LATITUDE/LONGITUDE

21.7 N 76.7 W

CURRENT DISTANCE FROM FLORIDA KEYS

357 miles southeast of Key West

FORWARD DIRECTION, SPEED

NW @ 20 mph

STORM WARNING STATUS FOR KEYS AT TIME OF ADVISORY

Hurricane Warning... Hurricane conditions expected within 24-36 hours

EVACUATION STATUS FOR KEYS VISITORS AT TIME OF ADVISORY

Visitors that want to leave, need to depart now

EVACUATION STATUS FOR KEYS RESIDENTS AT TIME OF ADVISORY

Special needs, those in mobile homes and specified risk areas



National Hurricane Center Graphic

SYNOPSIS

Visitors in the Florida Keys, with their own transportation, should have either departed or should leave now to facilitate a safe egress to the South Florida mainland.

Keys officials counsel motorists not to be on the Overseas Highway or other Keys roads after sunrise Sunday, due to the onset of expected tropical storm-force winds.

Currently, traffic on the Overseas Highway (U.S. 1) is light and flowing smoothly at the speed limit, said Col. Rick Ramsay, of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Tolls are suspended on Card Sound Road.

A number of major Keys lodging entities — constructed to withstand major hurricanes — have remained open to accommodate visitors who could not leave. For lodging details, go to www.fl-keys.com.

Visitors who have stayed are directed to remain indoors and not go outside during the storm.

Monroe County Airports Director Peter Horton reports both Key West International and Florida Keys Marathon Airports are closed. He reported that there were no stranded tourists at Key West airport.

Four county shelters, that will accept visitors, open include Key West High School at 2100 Flagler Ave.; Sugarloaf School, mile marker 19; Stanley Switlik School, at MM 48 in Marathon and Coral Shores High School at MM 90 in Islamorada have opened. People must bring their own supplies and bedding.

All storm preparations, including the securing of property and boats, should be completed.

Coast Guard officials announced the Port of Key West would close to maritime traffic at 11 p.m. Saturday and remain closed until the storm passes and navigational aids can be inspected.

All county and municipal offices and public schools are to be closed to all Monday and to students Tuesday. County and municipal garbage pickup is canceled Monday, so residents are asked to not place refuse containers outside residences and businesses.

All Keys hospitals are open and fire/rescue and law enforcement services are operating at this time. Hospitals are to remain open during and after the storm, but county fire rescue units evaluate their ability to respond when winds reach gale force, according to Monroe County Fire Rescue Chief Jim Callahan.

INFRASTRUCTURE

An "X" indicates

open and/or operating
normally in most or all
regions at this time.

☒ U.S. Highway 1

☒ Electricity

☒ Water

☐ Marathon Airport

☐ Key West Airport

☒ Key West Port

☐ County Parks

☐ State Parks

☒ Hospitals

FUTURE TRAVEL TO KEYS?

Delay travel plans to Keys until
Isaac has passed and
infrastructure assessments are
completed.

ADDITIONAL HELP AND RESOURCES

[facebook.com/floridakeysandkeywest](https://www.facebook.com/floridakeysandkeywest) / twitter.com/thefloridakeys

Monroe County Emergency Information: (800) 955-5504

Monroe County Situation Report: www.monroecounty-fl.gov

National Hurricane Center Web site: www.nhc.noaa.gov

Monroe County Sheriff's Office: www.keyssso.net

County Public Access Television: Channel 76 on cable

For latest Keys travel status

www.fl-keys.com

TDC Multilingual Visitor Help: (800) 771-KEYS

Greyhound Keys Shuttle: (800) 410-KEYS

Key West Weather: www.weather.gov/keywest

Florida Emergency and Hotel information:

1-800-342.3557 • FloridaEvacuates.com